

Attorney Docket No.: ABLE-0021
Inventors: Secombes et al.
Serial No.: 10/088,780
Filing Date: July 22, 2002
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (new): A gene construct for protection of a fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) comprising:

a non-infectious DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus-neutralizing single chain antibody BU1 comprising Genbank Accession Number AF302092 with a DNA sequence

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tgaaatctgg aactgcctct gttgtgtgcc tgctgaataa cttctatccc
agagaggcca aagtacagtg gaaggtggat aacgccctcc aatcgggtaa
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cttcaaccgc ggagagtcac aagttagata tccat

encoding a secretion signal of transforming growth factor
beta linked to the 5' end of the single chain antibody
BU1 gene, said sequence being inserted into a
plasmid downstream a CMV promoter and upstream a poly
adenylation signal.

Claim 77 (new): A composition for passive immunization
comprising the gene construct of claim 76.

Claim 78 (new): A method for prophylactically treating
fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus comprising
administering the composition of claim 77 to a fish via
injection to the epaxial muscle below the dorsal fin of the
fish.